

SCHOLARSHIP OPTIONS

Prospective students should investigate scholarship options in addition to financial aid options. There is a wealth of information available over the Internet.

Here are some Web sites The Evergreen State College (TESC) recommends:

- www.collegeboard.com/pay
- www.collegeplan.org
- www.fastaid.com
- www.fastweb.monster.com
- www.finaid.org

Also, colleges and universities offer scholarships from their private foundation and fundraising efforts.

Scholarships require that the student be formally admitted to the college or university they attend. Some scholarships may require the student to enroll fulltime (generally, "fulltime" means at least 12 quarter hour credits per term), but some scholarships may not have a credit proviso. For example, Evergreen's Foundation offers scholarships to students who are enrolled for at least eight credits.

Editor's Note

This article is reprinted from the INTERACT of MAY/JUNE 2000. In addition, the Web sites have been updated since the original printing.

For more information regarding financial aid at TESC, you can e-mail the Financial Aid office at finaid@evergreen.edu.

Other Resources

The Evergreen State College (TESC) Financial Aid Web site: www.evergreen.edu/financialaid/resources.htm

The University of Washington, "College Funding Strategies for Students with Disabilities" (PDF document available from Web site): www.washington.edu/doit/Brochures/Academics/financial-aid.html

US Department of Education Federal Student Aid (English and Spanish): www.studentaid.ed.gov

WSECU offers college scholarships to members and their dependents: www.wastatecu.org/x1854.xml

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Financial Aid for State Employees

ADMISSIONS COUNSELORS

The absolute best advice for any prospective student is to connect with an admissions counselor at the college or university they wish to attend. This counselor can provide information about the admissions process and help smooth the way for other processes—such as financial aid, scholarships, registration, and advising.

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

State employees should consult with the Human Resource Services/Personnel office at their agency to find out if the agency has a tuition reimbursement program. Some agencies have funds available, while some agencies do not. The employee may be responsible for paying for the cost of attendance (tuition, fees, books, and supplies) and the agency will reimburse after the student/employee has earned the credit.

"NEED-BASED" PROGRAMS

Federal and state financial aid programs are "need-based" programs. Need-based means that the student provides financial information about their earnings and assets to a federal

processor. The federal processor identifies how much money the student should contribute toward their education. Financial aid programs were meant to close the gap between what the student can contribute and the cost of attendance.

For example, the federal processor indicates that the student's "expected family contribution" is \$2000 per year. The cost of attendance is \$10,000 per year. Therefore, the gap is \$8000 per year.

Financial aid programs include grants, employment, and various loans. In order to access financial aid, the student needs to be formally admitted to an institution of higher education and enrolled full-time. The application for admission and the application for financial aid can be concurrent processes.

Grants – are gift aid and do not require repayment or active employment to receive the aid. Grants are awarded on the basis of financial need.

Employment – involves work opportunities on-campus and in the community. This is also more commonly known as "work-study money."

Loans – require the borrower to repay the amount borrowed plus any accrued interest. Loans vary from 5% to 12% and may offer certain deferment options. There are circumstances in which a loan

can be partially or entirely forgiven. For more information, go to:

www.finaid.org/loans/forgiveness.phtml

FAFSA

The form that many Washington colleges/universities use for financial aid is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The paper version of this form is available in late-December every year. The federal processor accepts completed forms after January 1 every year. This form is also available over the Internet and students can even apply electronically. The Internet address is: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT

Financially needy students who will be college-level juniors (90-quarter hour credits) may qualify for the Educational Opportunity Grant. The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HEC Board) administers this grant. The purpose of this program is to provide renewable \$2500 grants as an incentive to financially needy place bound residents to complete their baccalaureate education at public and private colleges and universities.

For more information about this grant, contact the HEC Board at (360) 753-7861 or visit the agency's Web site: www.hecb.wa.gov.